

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

STR-04 FEAEE-00 OMB-01 FPC-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /106 W

----- 020888

R 241037Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3693

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TC

SUBJ: UAE MINPET COMMENTS ON VIENNA OPEC MEETING

1. UAE MIN PETROLEUM OTAIBA TOLD ME HE HAD NARROWLY ESCAPED VIENNA KIDNAPPING ONLY BECAUSE HE HAD FELT HE SHOULD BE IN ABU DHABI FOR AMIR OF QATAR'S VISIT AND HAD LEFT CONFERENCE EARLY. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT HIS THREE MINISTRY EXPERTS WHO HAD BEEN LEFT BEHIND AND TAKEN AS HOSTAGES WERE NOW RELEASED
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SAFE AND SOUND.

2. OTAIBA SAID MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY WRANGLING BETWEEN IRAQ AND ALGIERS OVER PRICE-CUTTING. ALGERIANS AND OTHER ACCUSED IRAQ OF UNDER-THE-TABLE PRICE CUTS OF AS MUCH AS ONE DOLLAR TO INCREASE PRODUCTION. IRAQIS RETORTED THAT IT HAS BEEN ALGIERS THAT STARTED PRICE-CUTTING. OTAIBA SAID KUWAIT ALSO CAME IN FOR SOME CRITICISM, BUT FOR MOST PART KEPT OUT OF DEBATE. AS OF TIME OTAIBA LEFT, THERE WAS NO SIGN THAT MEMBERS WERE ANY CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON QUESTION ADJUSTMENT OF DIFFERENTIALS.

3. OTAIBA ALSO CONFIRMED WHAT WE HEAR FROM OTHER SOURCES, THAT HIS MINISTRY AND ADNOC REMAIN AT LOGGERHEADS OVER OIL AFFAIRS IN ABU DHABI. OTAIBA SAID "THE SOCIALISTS" IN ADNOC, HEADED BY HAMRA-KROUHA, WERE DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH ON-SHORE GAS

PROJECT ON 100 PERCENT GOVERNMENT OWNED BASIS, WHEREAS HE WANTED TO KEEP DOOR OPEN FOR JOINT VENTURE WITH ADPC GROUP. HE SAID CFP AND BP WERE MOST NEGATIVE ABOUT GAS PROJECT, WITH EXXON, MOBIL AND SHELL HAVING MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE. NEGOTIATING GROUP FROM COMPANIES WAS DUE IN ABU DHABI DECEMBER 28 TO EXPLORE WHETHER GAP BETWEEN ADG OIL MAJORS COULD BE NARROWED.

STERNER

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Message Attributes

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